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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Administration

Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine

Washington 25, D. C.

August 31, 1948

To: Inspectors in Charge at Certain Towns and Ports

From: B. M. Gaddis, In Charge, Division of Domestic Plant Quarantines
E. R. Sasscer, In Charge, Division of Foreign Plant Quarantines

Subject: Disease Condition of Domestic Bulbs Moving in Interstate
Commerce

The Bureau has a reasonably good picture of the diseased condition of foreign iris, narcissus, tulip, gladiolus, and lily bulbs which have arrived at the several ports of entry over a period of years. Recent information with respect to the diseased condition of domestic bulbs moving interstate is now inadequate and consequently there is no basis for comparing the diseased condition of the two categories of bulbs.

In an effort to acquire information on the current condition of the domestic bulbs previously mentioned moving interstate it is planned to utilize certain personnel of the Divisions of Domestic and Foreign Plant Quarantines located at strategic points. In practice it is contemplated that the inspectors involved will observe material at transit inspection points, taking out infected or infested samples, where possible, and assembling information which can be sent to destination points where a more thorough examination may be made either by federal domestic or foreign personnel. Obviously this applies to reasonably large shipments of 25 cases or more. Special emphasis should be placed on iris and lily shipments. Where inspectors of both Divisions are located at the same point they should work out the problem together in order to avoid duplication of effort and at the same time insure covering the field.

It is believed that the most satisfactory results can be obtained by contacting local jobbers or distributors of the five bulbs listed which have or will be moved in interstate commerce. Contacts can also be made with local large wholesale or retail establishments. It is important to keep in mind the fact that we do not wish records on bulbs not in interstate movement and which we cannot definitely trace back to the state of origin. If possible, secure the address of the grower or original shipper. Additional information may also be acquired from local state

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officials who may make it a practice to examine bulbs moving into their state, in which case it may be possible to examine the bulbs jointly.

In contacting the jobbers and wholesale and retail dealers they should be informed, as indicated above, that an attempt is being made to secure information which can be used in comparing the diseased condition of foreign bulbs offered for entry into the United States with that of similar kinds of domestically grown bulbs moving interstate. They may be assured that the information secured as to origin of their bulbs will not result in interference in the sale of their bulbs nor will the information as to source be divulged to competitors.

As an aid to those making the examinations we are enclosing a few notes, prepared by Mr. Donald P. Limber and Mrs. A. J. Watson of the Division of Foreign Plant Quarantines, with illustrations, which outline the symptoms of the more common injurious fungus, bacterial, and nema diseases of iris, narcissus, tulip, lily, and gladiolus bulbs. This information is intended to serve as a guide in the selection of the samples of diseased bulbs to be submitted to Hoboken for identification. Representative samples should be examined wherever possible and an estimate given as to percentage of infected bulbs of the kind or variety examined. At the end of the season we should like to receive a summary indicating the approximate number of bulbs examined, kind, the number or percentage actually examined, the number infected and with what organism, and the origin of the bulbs by states and premises where possible. It is understood that lily bulbs produced in Louisiana, Texas, and Florida were shipped in July and August and it may now be too late to acquire much information concerning these this calendar year. Also, gladiolus bulbs will not be available until next spring and should be made the subject of a second report.

All material collected should be forwarded to Mr. Donald P. Limber, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, 209 River Street, Hoboken, New Jersey. Accompanying each package should be enclosed, in duplicate, EQ-49 or EQ-9 supplying appropriate information. It is understood that Mr. Limber will return to you one copy of the EQ-49 or EQ-9 which you can use in compiling your summary. For your information this memorandum with accompanying statements is being sent to Domestic Plant Quarantine Inspectors in charge at New York; Boston; Pittsburgh; Chicago; Memphis; Washington, D. C.; Atlanta; Wilmington, North Carolina; Macon, Georgia; Birmingham; Montgomery; New Orleans; Houston; Dallas; San Antonio; and Los Angeles and to Foreign Plant Quarantine Inspectors in charge at New York; Philadelphia; Baltimore; Chicago; Detroit; Cleveland; St. Paul; St. Louis; Kansas City; New Orleans; Mobile; Savannah; Charleston; Norfolk; Houston; Buffalo; Seattle; Portland, Oregon; and San Francisco.

L. M. Watson

E. P. Sarscer

